

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

Research from *The Midnight Library* using the New Criticism approach found that there is organic unity between the formal elements in this novel with the theme "Confronting Regret to Embrace Self-Worth: The Journey Toward Acceptance". The writer got this unity from the formal elements used in this study, namely Symbolism and Narrative Structure.

Symbolism in this study gets a fairly large portion, because the writer sees the many repeated imagery used by Matt Haig in his work. The writer found that the imagery symbolizes something that gives meaning and forms a theme in the novel. The first is the library, the library is a safe place for Nora. A safe place when she is in her root life and when she is in the phase of living an alternative life. Next there are green books that become a hope for Nora. Mrs. Elm, the librarian who also plays a role as a facilitator in Nora's growth process. The symbol of the photo and the whale emoji symbolize regret and the connection between Nora and her best friend, Izzy. The game of chess as Nora's way of living her life. And finally is a reflection of the philosopher's thoughts that become a picture in Nora's self in struggling to find herself.

Next, the writer finds the unity through narrative structure. The narrative structure in this novel has a uniqueness, forming a repeating pattern like a cycle. A cycle that always rotates between books, alternative lives, feelings of dissatisfaction, and libraries. This cycle aims to erase the regrets that Nora has. The climax and resolution of this structure support the process of erasing these regrets. At the climax, Nora managed to find out what she wanted, and at the resolution, she was able to resolve one of her regrets. All the symbols and narrative structure are able to give meaning to the journey of erasing regrets and finding herself, along with appreciating the values that exist within herself.

The study using New Criticism on *The Midnight Library* highlights an organic unity between symbolism (e.g., the library as a safe haven, green books as hope, and the photo/whale emoji symbolizing regret) and a cyclical narrative structure, aligning with the theme "Confronting Regret to Embrace Self-Worth." This structure, with its climax and resolution, supports Nora's journey to overcome regret and affirm her self-worth.

5.2 Suggestions

The writer realizes that this research is quite general. The writer only briefly describes the symbols and narrative structures in the novel. The writer suggests that subsequent researchers be able to analyze more deeply the relationship between Nora and secondary characters such as Ash, Hugo, and Izzy in more depth. Able to analyze the communication dialogue between them and their influence on Nora's inner self. This research does not completely cover the symbolism, the next research could be about the time and place symbols can also be used as material for subsequent research. The next researcher is also able to discuss one or several chapters in more depth to get a better contextual analysis. The writer here will also offer a fairly interesting issue, about what made Nora choose her real life over the alternative life with Ash and Molly.